

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04

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TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: DPC MINISTERIAL: PRESS

1. FOLLOWING ARE MOST IMPORTANT QUESTIONS LIKELY TO BE ASKED BY JOURNALISTS AT THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE'S ARRIVAL IN BRUSSELS FOR MINISTERIAL DPC, OR IN ANY SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS WITH PRESS HERE:

2. WILL (DID) YOU HAVE ANY BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS WHILE IN BRUSSELS? WITH WHOM? WHAT SUBJECTS?

3. IS PROGRESS ON CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS UP TO YOUR EXPECTATIONS? WHAT IS YOUR ASSESSMENT OF HOW THE EUROPEAN ALLIES ARE DOING? (AFTER MEETING) WERE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE EUROGROUP REPORT ON DEFENSE IMPROVEMENTS?

4. ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE ATTITUDE AND PERFORMANCE OF THE EUROPEANS UP TO NOW ON BURDEN SHARING? WHERE DO YOU GO FROM HER ON MULTILATERAL BURDEN SHARING WITHIN NATO? SATISFIED WITH THE GERMAN-AMERICAN OFFSET AGREEMENT?

5. DO YOU SHARE THE PRESIDENT'S OPTIMISM ABOUT MEETING THE JACKSON-NUNN STANDARD? DO YOU EXPECT ZERO FORCE REDUCTIONS, I.E., COMPLETE

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FULFILLING OF THE JACKSON-NUNN REQUIREMENT?

6. DO YOU EXPECT OTHER MOVEMENTS IN THE CONGRESS TO CUT U.S. TROOPS, OR WILL THIS MONTH'S HOUSE VOTES DISCOURAGE SUCH EFFORTS?

7. HOW BIG WOULD A WITHDRAWAL HAVE TO BE TO AFFECT SERIOUSLY THE AMERICAN FORCES' ABILITY TO CARRY OUT THEIR MISSION?

8. HOW DO THINGS STAND NOW ON THE BALANCE OF MILITARY STRENGTH BETWEEN NATO AND THE WARSAW PACT? YOU HAVE NOT ALWAYS AGREED, ACCORDING TO SOME REPORTS, WITH THE APPRECIATION OF THE MILITARY BALANCE DEVELOPED BY NATO. HAVE THESE DIFFERENCES BEEN RESOLVED SO THAT YOUR ASSESSMENT AND THE ALLIANCE'S ARE NOW ABOUT THE SAME?

9. DO (DID) THE DEFENSE MINISTERS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO AT THIS MEETING RELATIVE TO MBFR?

10. BOTH MBFR AND SALT APPEAR TO BE STALLED FOR THE MOMENT. (DO YOU AGREE WITH THIS ASSESSMENT?) WOULD CONTINUED LACK OF PROGRESS LEAD YOU TO HAVE TO MAKE SOME FRESH DECISIONS ABOUT BEEFING UP U.S. STRENGTH?

11. WILL (DID) YOU DISCUSS WITH THE OTHER DEFENSE MINISTERS THE NEW U.S. STRATEGIC TARGETING POLICY? WHAT HAS BEEN THE EUROPEAN REACTION? HAVE YOU HAD ANY SOVIET REACTION?

12. ARE YOU PLANNING ANY REDUCTIONS IN U.S. TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN EUROPE?

13. IS STANDARDIZATION MAKING ANY PROGRESS IN THE ALLIANCE? IF SO, WHAT? DOESN'T THE UPCOMING REPLACEMENT OF F-104S IN SEVERAL NATO COUNTRIES LEAD TO THE DANGER THAT THEY WILL EITHER CHOOSE DIFFERENT AIRCRAFT, THEREBY REDUCING STANDARDIZATION, OR THAT THEY WILL ALL CHOOSE MIRAGES?

14. WHERE DO YOU THINK THE NEW HEADQUARTERS FOR THE EUROPEAN CENTRALIZED AIR COMMAND SHOULD BE, BRUNSSUM OR RAMSTEIN?

15. AFTER THE EXPERIENCE OF LAST OCTOBER, HAVE ANY CHANGES BEEN MADE IN PROCEDURES FOR CONSULTATION DURING A U.S. ALERT OR OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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CRISIS SITUATIONS? ALST FALL AND EARLY WINTER, PEOPLE SPOKE OF A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE AMONG NATO ALLIES. IS THE ATMOSPHERE BETTER NOW?

16. HAVE YOU HAD TIME TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE ENERGY CRISIS ON ALLIANCE DEFENSES? IS ASSURED OIL SUPPLY DURING TIME OF CONFLICT A SEVERE PROBLEM? ARE STEPS BEING TAKEN TO GUARD AGAINST RUNNING SHORT?

17. HAS ANYTHING BEEN DONE TO ASSURE GREATER COOPERATION FROM THE ALLIES IN CASE OF ANOTHER OPERATION SUCH AS THE RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL LAST OCTOBER?

18. HOW WILL THE REOPENING OF THE SUEZ CANAL AFFECT ALLIANCE SECURITY

?

19. IS THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE INDIAN OCEAN SOMETHING ABOUT WHICH NATO SHOULD BE WORRIED?

20. WHAT IS THE STATE OF PLAY ON THE DIEGO GARCIA BASE? ARE YOU GOING AHEAD WITH IT?

21. DID THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST AFFECT THE THINKING OF INDIA, THE U.S. OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY RELATIVE TO DIEGO GARCIA AND INDIAN OCEAN SECURITY?

22. DO YOU THINK THE INDIAN NUCLEAR EXPLOSION WILL LEAD TO FURTHER PROLIFERATION SOON? WON'T JAPAN AND GERMANY GROW RESTIVE UNDER THEIR CURRENT RESTRICTIONS?

23. HAVE YOU SEEN THE SACLANT STUDY ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC? DO YOU EXCLUDE THE POSSIBILITY OF NATO ACTION AT SOME TIME TO PROTECT THE SOUTHERN SHIPPING ROUTE (AROUND THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE)? ARE YOU IN CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA ABOUT THESE QUESTIONS? DID U.S. OFFICIALS DISCUSS THEM WITH ADMIRAL DIERMAN WHEN HE WAS IN WASHINGTON?

24. HOW DO YOU THINK THE COUP IN PORTUGAL WILL AFFECT THE NATO, ESPECIALLY ALLIANCE, DEFENSES?

25. WILL (DID) YOU DISCUSS THE AEGEAN DISPUTE BETWEEN GREECE AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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TURKEY? WHAT ARE YOUR CONCERNS THERE?

26. HOW DO PROSPECTS LOOK TO YOU FOR THE RETENTION OF THE KEFLAVIK BASE (ICELAND)?

27. ABOVE QUESTIONS 10, 11, 12, 15, 21 AND 22 SHOULD BE CONSIDERED POSSIBILITIES ALSO FOR JOURNALISTS SECRETARY WILL FACE IN BERGEN. RUMSFELD

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